

permitted by the States and EPA under the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Essentially, my bill would authorize EPA to take the course of action that it originally chose. When the Agency first issued its LDR regulations, the Agency concluded that imposing treatment requirements on these types of nonhazardous waste management systems "would not provide further protection to human health and the environment," and would cause "considerable disruption at facilities that EPA generally considers safe."

Mr. MCINTOSH. How much does EPA estimate that it would cost to impose the rule required by the court's decision, which would provide little or no environmental or public health gains?

Mr. OXLEY. If the gentleman will yield further, EPA's regulatory impact analysis places the cost of this rule at somewhere between one-half billion dollars and three-quarters of a billion dollars each year. That is too steep a price to pay for wasteful and duplicative regulation when those resources could do so much more to protect human health and the environment if used elsewhere. Frankly, if the supermandate in H.R. 1022, the Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Act, were law, we would not be facing a rule which EPA, itself, believes is so extraordinarily wasteful.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Again, Mr. Oxley, I commend you for introducing H.R. 2036. Hazardous waste land disposal restrictions should not be imposed on wastes being managed in units that are permitted under the Clean Water or Safe Drinking Water Acts; nor should land disposal restrictions intended for hazardous wastes be imposed on non-hazardous wastes. Your bill would allow EPA to redirect its scarce resources to actions and projects that would achieve the greatest overall benefit for the costs incurred.

I commend the gentleman for that legislation.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania) having assumed the chair, Mr. COMBEST, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON H.R. 2126, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Florida, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-208) on the bill (H.R. 2126) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 2127, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Florida, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-209) on the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

□ 2310

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2092

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as cosponsor of H.R. 2092, the Private Security Officer Quality Assurance Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD OF WEST VIRGINIA ON CASTING HIS 14,000 VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from West Virginia [Mr. RAHALL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and privilege that I rise to announce that U.S. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, senior senator from West Virginia, earlier today became the first U.S. Senator in history to cast 14,000 votes in the Senate. This 14,000th vote gives Senator BYRD a 98.7 percent voting average over his 37 years of service in the Senate.

This voting record covers only Senator BYRD's Senate service, not the years he also served in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Senator BYRD's first vote in the Senate, cast on January 8, 1959, was very fitting: It was a vote on Senate procedures. Since then, Senator BYRD has become a national celebrity, is recognized as the Senate's "historian in residence," and he is recognized as the uncontested expert in the country on the Senate as an institution, about which he has published four volumes, and as a nationally known expert on parliamentary procedure in that body.

During the 37-year period in which the 14,000 votes were cast, Senator BYRD has served as: Secretary of the Senate Democratic Conference, Senate Majority Whip, Senate Majority Leaders, Senate Minority Leader, and President Pro Tempore.

Senator BYRD is not only a giant among men in the Senate, he is a giant among men in the Nation. He has been an integral part of the high drama and history of the second half of the 20th century, including the cold war, Vietnam, Watergate, Iran-Contra, and the collapse of the Soviet Union. He has served in the Senate under nine Presidents—through assassinations and resignations.

Today, the Senate paused to recognize and honor Senator BYRD for his extraordinary leadership and for having attained the milestones in his legislative career that brought him to his 14,000th vote.

Those milestones are: Being only one of three U.S. Senators in American history to have been elected to seven 6-year terms; being the first sitting Member of either House of Congress to begin and complete the study of the law and obtain a law degree while serving in the Congress; being the first person to carry every county in the State of West Virginia (55 of them) in a contested statewide general election; being the only person in the history of West Virginia to ever serve in both chambers of his State legislature and both Houses of the U.S. Congress; obtaining the greatest number, the greatest percentage, and the greatest margin of votes cast in statewide, contested elections in his State; being the first U.S. Senator in West Virginia to win a Senate seat without opposition in a general election; and serving longer in the U.S. Senate than anyone else in West Virginia history.

Mr. Speaker, all these milestones of achievement are remarkable in and of

themselves, and we honor Senator BYRD for them.

But his greatest feat will always be the dignity he has brought to the U.S. Senate every day of his life, throughout his tenure there.

He is a gentle but firm leader, who has the ability to share, in his writing and vocally, his deep and abiding reverence for the Senate as an institution. Each week, Senator BYRD offers a history lesson on the floor of the Senate, addressing his colleagues on the floor and the Nation that may be watching C-SPAN, on the importance of knowing, and observing and above all respecting, the traditions of the Senate, its rules of engagement and the parliamentary procedures, that govern it as an institution.

Tonight I wish to join my voice with the voices of his Senate colleagues, those in his beloved West Virginia and all our Nation in paying tribute to West Virginia's senior Senator.

And so it is with great personal honor, and with the highest esteem, that I rise on this occasion to pay tribute to Senator ROBERT C. BYRD of West Virginia for having become the first U.S. Senator in history to cast 14,000 votes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the previous order of the House, a gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE REPUBLICAN RECORD ON MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it was 30 years ago today that Medicare passed the House of Representatives, and even in 1965 Republicans did not support the program.

Their record on Medicare has been clear and is illustrated with this chart that we have here. At the time when Medicare was voted upon in 1960, 97 percent of Senate Republicans voted against creation of the Medicare Program; in 1962, 86 percent of Senate Republicans voted against creation of the Medicare Program; in 1964, 85 percent of Senate Republicans voted against creation of the Medicare Program; and then in 1965, 93 percent of the House Republicans voted to replace Medicare with their voluntary, no guarantees substitute. The rest of the chart indicates the remainder of the Republican record 30 years ago.

Even the lead Republican presidential contender today, Senator BOB DOLE, voted against the passage of the Medicare Program when he was in Congress 30 years ago this very day. And now that the Republicans are in control of Congress, one of their first acts

is to dismantle the program that has assisted so many senior citizens in living a longer and decent life.

As many know, the Republicans seek to cut \$270 billion from the Medicare Program, costing senior citizens over a \$1,000 in additional costs per year. Republicans claim that these cuts will not hurt senior citizens, but if health costs continue to rise faster than the growth in Medicare to seniors, then they will either get less services or pay more money. It is that simple.

Of course the Republicans have not discussed the specific details of their Medicare plans, because they are afraid to tell seniors what will happen with the \$270 billion in cuts that they have proposed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge senior citizens to ask their Congressmen how these \$270 billion in cuts will affect them, because if these cuts were not going to hurt seniors, then the plans would have been announced before a budget number was chosen.

Instead, the Republicans are reforming Medicare backwards by arbitrarily picking \$270 billion, the largest Medicare cut in history, and hiding the true facts from seniors. When Medicare was passed 30 years ago today, most Republicans said that it was not needed. Mr. Speaker, the facts could not be more clear.

I would like to illustrate the positive impact that the Medicare Program has had on the lives of senior citizens through a few illustrations that we have here today.

The first chart talks about the poverty rate for the age, which has dropped since 1967. If you look at the figures, for the general population and the senior population since the time Medicare was enacted, you can see the significant drop in the poverty rate for senior citizens.

□ 2320

Mr. PALLONE. Next we would like to show the drop in the death by stroke, which is indicated on this chart. For those over 65, rates have fallen by 63 percent in the years between 1960 and 1991, basically the 30-year or so period that we are talking about since the beginning of Medicare.

Mr. Chairman, death by heart disease has also dramatically decreased. For those over 65, rates have fallen by 40 percent in the years between 1960 and 1991, again from the beginning of the debate on Medicare until relatively recently.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the next chart will show the number of seniors who have health coverage. In 1959, only 46 percent of America's seniors had health care coverage before Medicare was enacted, and of course this year in 1995, after Medicare and after 30 years of the program, 99 percent of America's senior citizens now have health care coverage.

Mr. Chairman, instead of realizing these benefits, unfortunately, Republicans want to gut Medicare to meet

their other backward promises. One plan that the party is floating is the voucher plan, which would basically limit the health care coverage of senior citizens. This plan will give seniors substandard health care, unless they have the ability to spend money out of their own pocket to pay for better coverage.

Mr. Chairman, another plan would force seniors into managed care. Some people know them as HMO's. Many seniors are happy with their doctors and are not ready to be told which doctors they can or cannot seek, which is often the case with HMO's or other managed care programs.

Life before Medicare for senior citizens was a world of poverty, low life expectancy and despair. Medicare has played an integral role in seniors' lives by not forcing them to choose between health care, food or shelter. Unfortunately, the Republicans want to take us back to the days when seniors had to make those unfortunate choices.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to read one story from a New Jersey resident who submitted testimony for the record during the Committee on Ways and Means debate on Medicare during the early 1960's, because I think it illustrates the problems that many senior citizens had before the enactment of the Medicare program. This person testified before the committee on Ways and Means and said, "I hope and pray that I do not live long enough to be a senior citizen. It is very hard for me to beg. I would rather do without, whether it is food, medicine or a doctor. Only severe pain or an emergency would get me into a hospital. I control my condition with pills".

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I just hope and pray that the Republicans realize how vital Medicare is to every senior citizen. Those who cannot remember the past are unfortunately condemned to repeat it, but hopefully, we will not see it repeated with the Medicare Program being gutted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BROWNBACK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FRANK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. UNDERWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]